



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I would like to bring to your attention the serious escalation of terrorist attacks by Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations in Lebanon against Israeli civilians in northern Israel and members of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations, such as the so-called Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, have lately intensified their efforts to kill Israelis and to undermine the peace process. Indeed, on 29 June 1993, in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper Al-Diyar, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, said, "We are continuing our Jihad by placing bombs and ambushing because this is a holy cause for us." He added, "We remain steadfast in our strategy to erase Israel from the map ...". Hezbollah's "strategy" has included the repeated firing of Katyusha rockets against towns and villages in northern Israel as well as attacks upon IDF units with rockets, bombs and gunfire.

For many months, Israel exhibited restraint in the face of such attacks by Hezbollah and the other terrorist organizations. Israel has employed military action only as a last resort. In view of the recent increase in terrorist attacks, Israel felt compelled to respond. The IDF has been carrying out operations against terrorist bases belonging to Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations in Lebanon. In carrying out these operations, Israel is exercising its legitimate right of self-defence so as to restore adequate security along our northern border.

The aim of the terrorist organizations is to derail the peace process. Israel, for its part, remains fully committed to the peace negotiations. Israel is, therefore, acting to defend its citizens and to defend the peace process as well.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gad YAACOBI
Ambassador